

Application No. 10/801,690

REMARKS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Official Action mailed on November 8, 2005. This response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to express his gratitude to the Examiner for the courtesy of a telephone interview held on December 23, 2005 with Applicant's representative David Klein, Patent Agent 41,118.

The drawings stand objected under 37 CFR 1.83(a) because the proposed Fig. 3 was disapproved. Fig. 3 has been changed and resubmitted (classified as a "new sheet" because it was not approved for entry yet). It is earnestly believed that Fig. 3 now meets with the criteria for approval as discussed with the Examiner in the telephone interview, and no new matter has been added. It is respectfully submitted that since Fig. 3 is now deemed acceptable, the previously presented amendments to the text are also deemed acceptable.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. The phrase "a floor plate" should be "said floor plate". Claim 4 has been accordingly amended.

Claims 12-13 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Herold et al.

Claims 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Herold et al. in view of Kaminski.

Claims 12-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Fell et al.

Claims 17 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fell et al. in view of Holcomb et al.

Claims 12-13 and 15-16 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Willoughby et al.

Claim 2 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crain (138) in view of Sayre (730).

Claims 22-23 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Crain (138) in view of Sayre (730), and further in view of Toole et al.

Applicant notes with gratitude that claims 1, 5-11 and 20-21 are allowed.

Although the above rejections are traversed, for the purposes of expedited allowance claims 2, 12-17 and 22-23 have been canceled.

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It is respectfully submitted that claims 1, 4-11 and 20-21 are now in a condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile to 571-273-8300 at the United States Patent and Trademark Office on December 27, 2005.

David Klein, Reg. No. 41,118

(Name of Applicant's Representative)

David Klein
(Signature)